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## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

**BURYING A RIVER UNDER A CITY — THE  
GREATEST BROADSIDE — THE WEATHER IN  
HISTORY — THE COMING MEDICINE — A  
POISON OF ICE CREAM — SCIENCE AT ALL  
HOURS — SENSES NOT LOCALIZED — GAS  
MANTLE CHEMISTRY — REINFORCED TUBES.**

A unique piece of engineering, now in progress at Newcastle-on-Tyne, includes a novel application of ferro-concrete. The rapidly growing suburb of Heston is separated by a valley from 300 to 1,100 feet wide and 120 feet deep, at the bottom of which runs the Ouseburn River, and after rejecting various plans for improving communication, the engineers have decided to fill up the valley. A parabolic ferro-concrete culvert for the stream, 32 feet wide by 23 feet high and nearly half a mile long, will be covered by filling about 100 feet deep. The steel framework of the culvert, with a total weight of 850 tons, consists of bars from 5/16 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, having a maximum separation of 12 inches, and the ferro-concrete at the crown is only 8 inches thick. With the steel strengthening, it is calculated that this thickness is ample to support the enormous weight, which will include buildings on the made land.

In the simultaneous discharge of eight of the ten 12-inch guns of the *Oceangoing*, a shock was given the vessel of 400,000 tons, more than double that of any broadside ever before fired. The vessel of 15,500 tons skidded sideways several yards, listing many degrees. The guns, are 53 feet long, and each shell of 550 pounds is discharged by 255 pounds of cordite, with a muzzle velocity of 2,000 miles an hour. It is calculated that if the eight guns could be combined in one and fired at height of the atmosphere, the shell would travel around the earth for ever as a miniature satellite.

More than 100 instances of the importance of science on history of weather in war-time have been collected by Richard Bentley, of the Royal Meteorological Society. Wind, fog, rain, snow, hail, thunderstorms, heat and cold have all materially affected invasions, battles, retreats and other operations.

Recent tests of "electrolytic medication" suggest to French enthusiasts a revolution in medical practice. It solves the problem of bringing curative substances into contact with the affected part only, and thus it is possible to treat the liver—for instance—without introducing powerful drugs into the stomach, with risk of injury to nerves, heart, and the rest of the body. The new method depends upon the fact that elements of a decomposed solution pass to the electric poles. For example, a sponge saturated with iodine of potassium may be applied to each side of the body, and the electric current will cause the potassium to penetrate the tissues at the positive pole and the iodine at the negative. It is found to be easy to excite at will either local action on the skin or action throughout the organism. Dr. Stéphane Leduc has locally introduced salicylic acid in this way, and has thus cured the douloureux of the face after several surgical operations had failed. Even more remarkable was the case of a young soldier discharged from a military hospital with a hand maimed useless by a burn. The scar was treated electrolytically, the hand being placed in a bath of sodium chloride serving as cathode, and two sittings of thirty minutes each effected a complete cure.

Considerable lead has been found in the ice cream, fruit ice, etc., sold in London. The receptacles used in freezing are lined with an alloy of lead and tin, and this not only dissolves in the ice cream but particles are rubbed off in turning the freezer. An Italian chemist, proving the presence of these metals with copper, concludes that lead poisoning accounts for much of the digestive troubles of the ice cream season.

Not least among the educational advantages of both Berlin and Vienna is a so-called Ura lecture theater, where lectures are being given constantly—not weekly or occasionally but several times a day—on a great variety of subjects. Sir Wm. Ramsay and others are seeking to establish a similar means of popularizing science in London.

A long established belief, now seriously questioned if not disproven, is that the various senses have each a special center in the brain. Nearly half a century ago Broca decided that the faculty of articulate speech is localized in the foot of the third cerebral convolution on the brain's left side, and it has been understood that removal of this part of the brain would cause loss of speech or that the brain of a person attacked by aphasia would show a lesion in this place. A late investigation by Dr. Pierre Marie, of Paris, does not confirm this theory.

More than forty autopsies of aphasic subjects have shown no case in which this part of the brain has been attacked, but an extensive cerebral hemorrhage has been noted in most cases. Further, this loss of speech is usually attended by a diminution of the general intelligence, indicating that speech cannot be assigned to any special part.

The incandescence of gas mantles has been given a curious explanation. The oxide of cerium added to the oxide of thorium is less than one per cent., and it has been worked out that the incandescence is due to an oscillatory oxidation, produced millions of times every second. The oxidized cerium, we are told, combines with the thorium, decomposition follows, then reoxidation and combination, and so on.

A piece of felt, interposed between the air-chamber and the envelope, is a French solution of the tire-puncture problem that seems to have given good results. The felt is about half an inch thick, its width depending on the size of the tire, and it is held in place by the outer envelope at its edge and cemented to the inner surface of the protecting band. It soon adjusts itself to the shape of the tire. Before a nail or other sharp point the felt tends to give way instead of being penetrated, and the resistance usually prevents puncture, though not invariably.

## THE IMPEACHMENT OF TANG SHAO-YI.

The Shanghai correspondent of the *Times* writes on Feb. 20th:—The recent impeachment of Tang Shao-yi by reactionary officials, and the consequent removal of the Imperial Edicts concerning him, "for self-sufficiency and the employment of unsuitable persons," are matters of much wider interest and importance than usually attach to such events in the Chinese political world. For Tang Shao-yi is recognized by his countrymen as representing something more than the progressive tendencies which, in his official capacity, have concentrated upon him the open enmity of the literati. He is first and foremost, a man of letters, the acknowledged leader of the energetic and capable followers of the reform, and, as such, an object of attack by the Huanse party at the capital. A staunch advocate of modern education and administrative reform, he is, at the same time, an avowed supporter of the policy of China for the Chinese, and therefore usually in conflict with one or more of the Legations. Finally, as the chief honoree and adviser of the Viceroy Yuan, he stands in political opposition to the *Yuan* of the Treaty Ports for the Chinese, as opposed to Manchuk, influences in public affairs. When we remember that the career of the highest officials in China is still made or marred by a stroke of the Vermilion Pencil, and reflect in what unfeigned depths of Oriental intrigue, plot, and passion that pencil is dipped, the recent Edicts (which paradoxically repudiate the solemn promise of administrative reform made by the Throne a few weeks before) case to be matter for astonishment. It is a hand which the expediency of pinning down the hatred of a monarch can turn the wheel of Government faster than all the activities of a Viceroy, the wonder is rather that an official like Tang Shao-yi, the advocate of principles, contrary to all orthodox Mandarin methods, should have risen to such high place. That he has done so proves, I think, that the Court recognizes in the forces which he represents a power to be reckoned with and if possible, conciliated. His patriotism, as shown in dealings with foreigners, has undoubtedly stood him in good stead even with his enemies, his attitude in the Manchurian negotiations, the Customs affair, and in regard to railway concessions appealing strongly to public opinion. That the powerful reactionary forces lately brought to bear against him have failed to procure his summary dismissal from office is a hopeful sign of wisdom in high places, indicating that courage and intelligence are not without their value even at Peking.

The events which led up to the recent Edicts are of peculiar interest. It must be remembered that Tang Shao-yi has been prominently identified with the several progressive measures which startled the literati after the return of Duke Tai's travelling commission—the abolition of opium-smoking, the granting of official degrees for "Western learning" students, and the administrative reforms, intended to pave the way for a Constitution, promulgated in the November Edicts. It was inevitable that each and all of these measures should evoke the hostility of those whose views or vested interests were threatened, and in the September conference at the Palace there were utterances of the coming storm. It is, however, significant of the inner workings of a central government that the actual attack on Tang Shao-yi was directed, not against any of the general principles advocated by the progressive party, but against a specific case in which those principles were consistently applied—viz., the appointment of Shih Chao-chi, a specially qualified official, educated in America, to a Junior Councilship in the Board of Communications. Here was a definite issue, which every Metropolitan and provincial official could appreciate, a direct appeal upon the time-honoured order of opportunities for the classical scholar, of nepotism and "squeeze." The Edicts of November had proclaimed that in future the Ministers of the reorganized Boards were to select as their subordinate officials men specially qualified and trained for the posts; the Ministers "must realize their duty and not fear to evoke hostility," the object of the reform being "to define responsibility and to abolish corruption." But Edicts are not

taken so seriously by Chinese officials as by the European. Their moral lies chiefly in the application. The Throne's benevolent intention in this case was regarded by the Boards as a politic move to conciliate the most laudable, but quite impracticable, sentiments of the progressives. But the appointment of Shih Chao-chi, a Cornell graduate, to a responsible post in the Board of Communications was too literal an interpretation of the Throne's commands. The fact that this newly-established Board has charge of all navigation, railway, telegraph, and postal matters must appear to justify Tang Shao-yi's decision to engage men trained in these branches of the public service, and in the case of Shih Chao-chi he certainly selected the best man obtainable, of total rank, specially fitted by practical experience in railway work. Nevertheless the storm broke; all the powers of Celestial officialdom raged and stormed, and the Throne, recognizing the situation, performed one of its accustomed *votefaces*, removed Shih Chao-chi from the Board of Communications, and severely censured Chang Po-hai and Tang Shao-yi, its President and Vice-President, which act of reparation is accepted by the flattered devotees of the capital to mean that classical scholars of the orthodox type will continue to be eligible for technical posts without special education or training.

The published memorial denouncing Tang Shao-yi—the number of those unpublished is legion—bears the name of Ma Chai-chang, a Hanlin and "Expositor of Literature to H.M. the Emperor," but it is known to have been inspired by the Grand Councillor Chih Hui-chi, a prominent leader of the Huanse party. It is a frank exposition of the conservative attitude, of their hostility to modern education and to the Cantonese, combining bitter personal invective with the professions of solicitude for the welfare of the State. It reads all questions of the fitness of Shih Chao-chi for his post, and makes no reference to the reform Edict which justified him, but denounces Tang Shao-yi for advancing men of his own clique and family (Shih's wife is the daughter of a distant relative of Tang Shao-yi). An indication of the Throne's difficult position may be gathered from the fact that the Edicts of censure neither afford Tang Shao-yi the customary opportunity of memorialising in his own defence nor order any inquiry into his alleged offences. On the other hand, he is "treated with leniency," and allowed to retain office in the Waiwu and Board of Communications.

Prior to the memorial of Ma Chai-chang, Tang Shao-yi had been denounced at an Imperial audience by Liang Ting-fu, an emissary of the Viceroy Chang Chih-ung, whose support of the reactionary movement took the form of antagonism to the foreign education movement and vigorous support of Confucian learning, with results that have been recorded in recent edicts, raising the sage to the highest rank in the national Pantheon, and subordinating Western learning to the classics in the national schools. The co-operation of Chan Chih-ung, with Chih Hui-chi, the one animated by motives of simple conservatism, the other by hatred of the Cantonese, and their combined attack on Tang Shao-yi, made from the Huanse case, recent events have been given them a long-sought opportunity. In that case, as the result of Tang Shao-yi's negotiations with the British and French Legations, Yu Chao-kang, Provincial Judge of Kiangsi, was cashiered. Yu is a Huanse, the protégé of Chang Chih-ung and Chih Hui-chi, who, failing to prevent his disgrace, were in consequence deeply chagrined ("lost much face"). Such are the complicated wheels within wheels of Chinese politics, a game wherein the individual interests and sympathies of the personal equation are of more weight than all the destinies of the people.

For the moment there is a lull, but it may safely be predicted that the Conservatives, encouraged by success, will not rest here. The situation is full of interest, both in the north, where the Viceroy Yuan's troops are restless at their transfer from his control to that of the Board of War, and in the south, where students and Press are expected to renew their agitation for administrative reforms. That Tang Shao-yi's action precipitated the crisis is undeniable, the courage of his convictions and the man's natural optimism ignoring the silent forces of tradition and prejudice that work in and around the Forbidden City. As for the European in China, he is but a spectator of this eluding of systems; his interests are affected, but they concern not contending forces, neither of which desires his sympathy or his help. Both, in fact, on different lines, make "China for the Chinese" the chief plank in their platform. Nevertheless, looking at the problem in the broad light of civilization as we understand it, our sympathies are for the side of the party which Tang Shao-yi represents, since it makes for knowledge and movement, and the substitution of national life for stagnation and decay.

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MARSEILLES, LONDON and ANTWERP	SUMATRA Capt. E. W. Bruce	About 8th May	Freight and Passage.
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE, NUBIA and YOKOHAMA	Sumatra Capt. F. J. For	About 11th May	Freight and Passage.
SHANGHAI	OCEANA Capt. W. Hayward R.N.R.	About 16th May	Freight and Passage.
LONDON, &c., via USUAL PORTS OF CALL	DELHI Capt. J. D. Andrews R.N.R.	Noon, 18th May	See Special Advertisement.

For further Particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWETT,  
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 6th May, 1907.

# CHINA NAVIGATION CO. LIMITED.

FOR	STRAINS	TO SAIL
SWATOW and SHANGHAI	"KIUKIANG"	On 6th May, 4 P.M.
MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, PORT DARWIN, THURSDAY ISLAND, COOK TOWN, CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MELBOURNE	"CHINGTU"	On 6th May, 4 P.M.
CHINKIANG	"CHINKIANG"	On 7th May, daylight.
SHANGHAI and NEWCHANG	"KWEIYANG"	On 7th May, 4 P.M.
MANILA	"TAMING"	On 7th May, 4 P.M.
HAIHOW and HAIPHONG	"CHIHLI"	On 10th May, 1 A.M.
SHANGHAI	"SHAOHSING"	On 10th May, 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"HANGCHOW"	On 10th May, 4 P.M.
CEBU and ILOILO	"KAIKONG"	On 11th May, 4 P.M.

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FOR	THE CO.'S S.S.	LEAVING
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T. ABIMA, Manager.

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FOR	STRAINS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and BREMEN	"PRINZ EITEL FRIEDRICH" Capt. E. MALCHOW	Wednesday, 8th May, at Noon.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA	"GNEISENAU" Capt. G. BALTS	About Wednesday, 8th May.
MANILA, NEW GUINEA, BRISBANE, SYDNEY & MELBOURNE	"PRINZ WALDEMAR" Capt. W. von SENDEN	Thursday, 23rd May, at Noon.

For further Particulars, apply to

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GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 30th April, 1907.

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"EMPERESS OF CHINA" 6,000	Thursday, 4th July ... 22nd July
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TJIBODAS	JAPAN	Second half of May	JAVA PORTS	Second half of May
TJIKINI	JAVA	First half of June	JAPAN	Second half of June
TJILATJAP	IN PORT		JAVA PORTS	Second half of June
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Hongkong, 30th April, 1907.

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# NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

FROM ANTWERP, LONDON AND STRAITS.

# THE Steamship

"FLINTSHIRE"  
Captain E. C. Cundy, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, at Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 7th inst. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 7th inst. at 2.30 P.M.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1907.

NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"PRINZ WALDEMAR,"  
having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, at Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before Thursday, the 2nd inst., at Noon.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 9th inst. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 9th inst. at 9.30 A.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 16th inst., or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the undersigned.

NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD,  
MELCHERS & CO.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1907.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM MIDDLESBOROUGH, ANTWERP, LONDON, COLOMBO AND SINGAPORE.

THE Company's Steamship

"HITACHI MARU,"  
having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of plate cutlery, are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godown at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

Optional Goods will be carried on unless instructions are given to the contrary before Noon, To-day.

Goods not cleared by the 9th inst. will be subject to rent.

All ship-damaged packages must be left in the Godown, and Notice of same sent to this Office before the 13th inst., or Claims in connection therewith will not be recognised.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,  
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1907.

"BEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM ANTWERP, LONDON AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES OF Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, at Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 9th inst. will be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 16th inst., or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 9th inst. at 11 A.M.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1907.

NOTICE TO KOWLOON RESIDENTS

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FERRY WAREHOUSE.

Hongkong, 22nd December, 1903.

# NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

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Hongkong, 3rd May, 1907.

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Hongkong, 4th August, 1906.

SHIPPING IN PORT.

STEAMERS.

ARRIVALS. APCAR, British str. 2,931, A.

Stewart, 30th April—Calcutta and Straits

13th April, General—David, Sassoon &amp; Co., Ltd.

CAMERA, Belgian str. 2,903, W. C. Steele, 29th

April—Funchal, 27th April, General—

Gibb, Livingston &amp; Co.

CANTON MARU, Japanese str. 1,998, S. Hirai,

2nd May—Saigon 27th April, Rice and

Flour—Waller &amp; Co.

CHINKIANG, British str. 1,220, Robertson,

22nd April—Saigon 18th April, Rice—

Butterfield &amp; Swire.

CHUN SANG, British str. 1,417, E. Cox, 2nd

May—Swatow 1st May, General—Jardine,

Matheson &amp; Co.

CORTIS, British str. 2,744, A. Dixon, 30th April—

San Francisco 2nd April, Mails and

General—O. &amp; Co.

DEWENT, British str. 1,562, John Jenkins,

1st May—Saigon 27th April, Rice and

General—Chinese.

DEVANHA, British str. 4,785, J. D. Andrews,

2nd May—Bombay 17th April, Mails and

General—P. &amp; O. S. N. Co.

DEVANONGH, German str. 1,058, T. V. Bruhn,

30th April—Bangkok 22nd April, Rice—

Butterfield &amp; Swire.

EXPRESS OF INDIA, British str. 3,032, E.

Beetham, 8th April—Vancouver B.C. 10th

May, Flour and General—O. P. R. Co.

GERMANIA, German str. 1,000, H. Flugel, 24th

April—Sydney 4th April, Copra—Siemens

&amp; Co.

GLANVON, British str. 2,728, Woolfenden, 1st

May—Singapore 26th April, General—

Order.

HANGSANG, British str. 1,450, S. Wilde, 2nd

May—Shanghai 1st May

General—Jardine, Matheson &amp; Co.

HOENSTAUER, German str. 3,075, F. Jaeger,

30th April—Hamburg and Singapore 21st

March, General—Hamburg-Amerika

Line.

HONGKONG, British str. 1,350, J. M. Hay, 3rd

May—Saigon 27th April, Rice and General

—Jardine, Matheson &amp; Co., Ltd.

KILGER, British str. 2,478, T. Smith, 27th

April—Antwerp 12th March, General—

M. W. &amp; Co.

KIOSHI MARU, Japanese str. 1,495, S. Sonaka,

30th April—Saigon 1st May, Paddy &amp; Cotton

—Fukutsu &amp; Co.

KUKIANG, British str. 1,228, Wavell, 1st

May—Shanghai 20th April, General—

Butterfield &amp; Swire.

KOWLOON, German str. 2,335, H. Stehr, 29th

April—Mororan (Japan) 21st April, Coals

—Hamburg-Amerika Line.

KWAIYANG, British str. 1,040, Dawson, 30th

April—Nanchang and Chaofo 25th April,

General—Butterfield &amp; Swire.

LABRET, British str. 1,340, J. Jackson, 20th

April—Saigon 16th April, General—

Chinese.

LOTA, German str. 1,237, Natsine, 2nd May—

Bangkok 24th April, Rice—Sander, Weller

&amp; Co.

MATHILDE, German str. 831, N. Sonnemann,

3rd May—Haiphong via Hoihow 2nd

May, General—Jardine &amp; Co.

MUNSTER, American str. 13,328, Charles

Austin, 1st May—Seattle 1st April, Mails

and General—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

NAMSANG, British str. 2,591, P. H. Rolfe, 3rd

May—Calcutta, Penang and Singapore,

28th April, General—Jardine Matheson &amp; Co.

NORDBY, British str. 1,694, A. S. Gibb,

B.N.R. 24th April—Kobe 18th April,

OMCAR MARU, Japanese str. 1,778, A. Komatsu,

23rd April—Saigon undelivered, Rice—

Waller &amp; Co.

PROVIDENCE, Norwegian str. 833, C. Corne-

lious, 28th April—Haiphong and Hoihow

25th April, General—A. R. Marty.

SAMSEK, German str. 993, F. Schmidt, 29th

April—Bangkok 21st April, Rice &amp; Wood

—Butterfield &amp; Swire.

SOSHU MARU, Japanese str. 1,508, T. Suruga,

3rd May—Swatow 2nd May, General—

Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

SUICHO, British str. 1,769, W. E. Saver,

27th April—Saigon 23rd April, Rice—

Order.

TAKING, British str. 1,350, A. W. Oulbridge,

3rd May—Manila 30th April, General—

Butterfield &amp; Swire.

TATSU MARU, Japanese str. 1,943, H. Serr-

mine, 3rd May—Kobe 26th April, General



